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Weekly Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Simple Facts About Diphtheria Prevention.

- ☐ Toxin-antitoxin will prevent diphtheria.
- ☐ Toxin-antitoxin and antitoxin are two different products.
- ☐ Toxin-antitoxin does not give protection against diphtheria immediately. Immunity against the disease is not acquired until at least three months after the administration of the toxin-antitoxin. It then gives protection for a long period of time, probably for life.
- ☐ Antitoxin is used for the treatment of diphtheria and for giving protection at once to persons who have been exposed to the disease. Persons who have been previously protected by means of toxin-antitoxin will not need antitoxin.
- ☐ Antitoxin affords protection against diphtheria for a short period of time—two or three weeks. Toxin-antitoxin affords protection, probably, for life.
- ☐ This preventive against diphtheria, toxin-antitoxin, should be given to all children before they reach the age of two years.
- ☐ Of the 6980 children who contracted diphtheria in California during the first ten months of this year, 1289 were less than five years old and 3587 were between five and fourteen years of age.
- ☐ Of the 599 persons who died of diphtheria in California during 1922, 220 were less than five years of age and 333 were between five and fourteen years of age.
- ☐ During the past five years there have been 30,153 cases of diphtheria in California, with 2148 deaths.
- ☐ Most of these cases and deaths from this disastrous disease can be prevented by giving

children the protection against diphtheria which is afforded by toxin-antitoxin. It is harmless and is as effective as vaccination against smallpox or typhoid.

☐ The administration of toxin-antitoxin is not like a smallpox vaccination. It does not cause a sore on the arm as does smallpox vaccination. It produces little or no reaction in the individual to whom it is given.

☐ There is no excuse for 599 deaths from diphtheria occurring in California during a single year, when an efficient and harmless preventive, toxin-antitoxin, is available.

☐ The discovery and application of toxin-antitoxin as a preventive of diphtheria is the most recent and spectacular advance in public health.

☐ During recent years diphtheria cases and deaths have been increasing in California. Toxin-antitoxin, the diphtheria preventive, will bring about a reduction in both morbidity and mortality.

☐ Cases and deaths from diphtheria in California during recent years are as follows:

Year	Cases	Deaths
1918	3117	204
1919	3073	266
1920	5784	451
1921	9465	628
1922	8714	599
1923 (January-October)	6980	476

☐ Every child in California should be given the preventive against diphtheria, toxin-antitoxin, without further delay.

“Everything that exists is in a manner the seed of that which will be.”

—Marcus Aurelius.

Top-Minnows Work in California Waters.

Mr. Louva G. Lenert, Sanitary Engineer, in charge of mosquito control work for the California State Board of Health, presented a paper upon the progress of malaria control in California at the recent meeting of California health officers, held at Coronado. Regarding the success of top-minnows in mosquito control work, he said:

"The outstanding feature of improved mosquito control methods has been the phenomenal success attending the propagation and distribution of top-minnows throughout the state. In April, 1922, a shipment consisting of 590 fish, scientifically known as *Gambusia affinis*, was received from Austin, Texas, followed by another shipment of 500 from Hearne, Texas, a month later. Both shipments were planted in the Fort Sutter lily pond in Sacramento and allowed to propagate unmolested with the exception of two shipments of 600 fish each, sent to Oroville and Anderson in July, for the establishment of new hatcheries in those places. It was not until early April of this year that a satisfactory basis for their release was arranged for, consequently their general distribution was not begun until this season. More than twenty-five hatcheries have been established, from Redding in the north to Santa Ana in the south, most of which have far exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

Gambusia affinis is a viviparous fish, giving birth to live young. The breeding season is roughly from April to October, during which period a single female averages 6 to 8 broods of 40 young each. The female attains an average size of about 2½ inches in length, while the male rarely reaches more than half that length. An average sized fish may be expected to consume more than 100 mosquito larvae per day. These are but a few of the high spots concerning this remarkable fish.

The Anderson hatchery is a wonderful illustration of the efficiency and prolificness of *Gambusia affinis*. Six hundred fish were placed in the old clay pit of the Anderson brickyard which is flooded with water to an area of possibly five acres. One year later, 60,000 fish were taken from a shallow section of the pond ten feet wide and 60 feet in length. This was less than a 300th part of the lake's surface, yet the reduction in this small area was not readily noticed. If the number remaining in the pond is in any way proportional to the area involved (and there is every reason to believe this is the case) the problem looks more like one of German finance than that of fish reproduction.

The fish removed on this day were distributed throughout the Anderson Mosquito Abatement District and their subsequent increase in the various streams and waterways has been phenomenal, reducing to a very large extent the necessity of using oil on these places. Wherever these top-minnows have been planted and sufficient time has elapsed for their reproduction, almost perfect mosquito control has resulted.

An exception to this was found in a log pond at Oroville. Excellent control was maintained until the month of June, after which the water in the pond became an inky black and very foul, a condition caused by rotting bark, turpentine, etc., from the logs stored in the pond. Practically all of the fish have since died and it has been necessary to return to the use of oil for mosquito control.

It has never been recommended that *Gambusia affinis* be used alone in mosquito control work, but with their proper distribution, it is believed that 75 per cent of mosquito breeding in most California communities can be controlled."

Disinfect Shaving Brushes With Iodine.

Cases of anthrax, due to the use of infected shaving brushes, are not of uncommon occurrence. It is important that new brushes, the source of manufacture of which is unknown, should be thoroughly disinfected before use. Most manufacturers of shaving brushes thoroughly sterilize the hair before it is made up in brushes. It is believed, however, that there are certain stocks of brushes on the market that may be infected with anthrax spores.

A new method of disinfecting hair has recently been devised, which is said to be superior to the method that has been used during the past four years. The new way consists of soaking the brush for two hours in a one per cent solution of iodine, using a small amount of iodide of soda to facilitate the dissolution. The mixture should be warm and it should be agitated frequently during the process of disinfection. At the end of the two-hour period the brush should be placed in a bath of ordinary hypsulphate of soda in order to remove the iodine stain.

HOW THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES SERVE YOU.

Probably neither the general public nor the medical profession fully appreciates the service rendered them by public health laboratories. These institutions had their beginning about fifty years or more ago, in the evident need of making analyses of food and drink. Before the advent of bacteriology, it was clearly recognized that disease occasionally resulted from the use of bad water or decomposed food. It was evident that the householder could not make analyses of the water supplied by the city or by a water company, and he was equally helpless when a question arose as to the purity of the milk supplied to his family by the dairyman, or of articles of food purchased from the grocer. Everybody admitted that it was a duty of the state or the municipality to protect its citizens from the effects of contaminated water and bad food. Thus public health laboratories came into being, and they have not only justified their continuance, but also made possible their expansion by the good that they have accomplished. These laboratories have greatly extended the scope of their work until now they play a large part in determining sickness and death rates. It is safe to say that deprivation of their aid even for one short year would result in the spread of infectious diseases and in an ascending death rate.—Hygeia.

Issue Vaccination Order to Employees.

The Standard Oil Company has issued an order to all employees in those districts of California where smallpox is epidemic, which requires that they be vaccinated against the disease. If the employees of all business firms were vaccinated against smallpox, immense sums of money, now lost in lower production, wages, and time, would be saved to both employer and employee. To be vaccinated against smallpox constitutes a sound business principle. Many commercial houses are taking advantage of this procedure simply as an economy measure.



Don't Run Motor in Closed Garage.

With the approach of colder weather it is in order to issue a warning regarding the danger of asphyxiation from motor exhaust gases released in closed garages. Every year this warning is issued, but the repetition is worthy if it may be the means of saving a human life. Motor exhausts contain carbon monoxide, which is as deadly in motor exhausts as it is in gas used for cooking and illumination. Motors should not be run in closed buildings. It pays to be careful.



"An individual is as superb as a nation when he has the qualities which make a superb nation."
—Walt Whitman.



"For know, whatever was created needs to be sustained and fed."—John Milton.



"Every life is a warfare, and that long and various."—Epictetus.



"It should be recollected that seventy years ago the prospect of conquering typhus or even typhoid seemed, even to experienced experts, a chimerical mirage. Yet typhus is gone and typhoid controlled. Smallpox was equally baffling. The conquest of these diseases, which we now enjoy as our rightful inheritance, was achieved by means simple enough when known. They were perhaps not easier to discover than the means of control of cancer.

"If the cause and cure of cancer are to be found there must be continued and persistent investigation."
—Sir George Newman,
Medical Officer of Health, Great Britain.



It is needful and proper that cancer, which is the most insidious and fatal disease of human life, be fought with all the intelligence, faith and encouragement which can be brought against it. In this way, and in this way only, can its fearful ravages be overcome.

—Geo. A. Soper, Ph.D.

Stop Littering County Highways.

Rather than pay a scavenger to haul away garbage and other refuse from their premises, many irresponsible residents of our cities allow these domestic wastes to accumulate as long as possible, whereupon they haul the refuse in the family automobile to the outskirts of the city, where they dump it along the highways. One of the interior counties of California conducts an annual clean-up of tin cans and similar wastes scattered along the highways near the county seat. Thirty big truck loads of such trash are thus gathered up each year. In spite of all efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of this pernicious custom, the rubbish continues to accumulate. Concerning this practice the *Stockton Record* says:

"It costs the taxpayers real money to clean up after these derelicts. But that is not the worst part of it. The refuse along the highways is not only offensive to the finer senses of our own people but it reacts on visitors to the detriment of the city and the county. Good impressions are invaluable and Stockton should overlook no opportunity to create them. If we can not stop this garbage strewing practice by law, can we not correct the evil either by appealing to public pride or sense of shame?"



New Motion Picture on Maternal Welfare.

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has announced the production of a two-reel motion picture entitled "Well-Born." The picture is a simple and convincing presentation of the value of prenatal care. The acting is said to be intelligent and sympathetic and the photography is unusually good. The two reels of film will be lent to responsible persons and agencies by the Children's Bureau, with the understanding that the borrower will pay express charges from Washington, and return, will employ a competent motion picture operator and will guarantee the safe keeping of the films.



"To find, to fashion and fulfill,
The cleaner life, the sterner code."

Rudyard Kipling.



"Health is a great matter, both to the possessor of it and to others. There is no kind of achievement you could make in the world that is equal to perfect health."

—Thomas Carlyle.

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

338 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 74, Oakland 29, Los Angeles 77, Los Angeles County 24, Merced County 12, Berkeley 10, Santa Clara County 7, San Bernardino 6, Stockton 11, Long Beach 9, Glendale 6, San Diego County 7, Santa Rosa 2, Beverly Hills 1, Sonora 1, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Luis Obispo 1, Burbank 1, San Joaquin County 1, Monterey County 2, Redwood City 1, Sacramento 4, Contra Costa County 5, Orange County 1, Sonoma County 1, San Fernando 3, Manhattan Beach 1, Pasadena 1, Riverside 2, Pomona 1, Ventura County 1, Benicia 1, Lodi 1, Fresno County 3, Madera County 1, Tulare County 1, Richmond 1, Alameda 2, Yuba County 1, Sacramento County 3, Kern County 3, Anaheim 5, Napa County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 7.

Measles.

286 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 155, Santa Rosa 12, Berkeley 16, Eureka 8, San Luis Obispo County 5, Los Angeles 6, Petaluma 14, Monterey County 13, Sonoma County 9, Burlingame 6, Palo Alto 4, Santa Clara County 2, Mendocino County 2, Alameda 2, San Leandro 1, Glendale 2, Redwood City 1, Alhambra 1, Ontario 1, Lompoc 1, Long Beach 1, Riverside 1, Tulare County 1, San Joaquin County 2, Manteca 1, Pasadena 2, El Monte 1, Los Angeles County 3, LaVerne 4, Contra Costa County 1, Oakland 5, Napa County 2, San Diego 1.

Scarlet Fever.

223 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 48, Los Angeles County 26, San Francisco 27, Oakland 18, Colusa County 5, Kern County 7, Long Beach 6, Whittier 10, San Bernardino 3, Tehama County 3, Merced County 1, Santa Ana 3, Chula Vista 1, Bakersfield 1, Taft 6, Tulare County 3, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 3, Tracy 2, Manteca 2, Sacramento 2, Santa Cruz County 2, Watsonville 2, Livermore 4, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1,

Pomona 4, San Diego County 2, San Bernardino County 3, Riverside 2, Pasadena 2, Huntington Park 2, Eureka 1, Vallejo 3, Fresno County 4, Healdsburg 2, Berkeley 3, Escondido 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 3.

Whooping Cough.

23 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Santa Rosa 1, Contra Costa County 1, Williams 1, Eureka 4, Los Angeles 3, Stockton 1, Plumas County 2, Pasadena 3, Alhambra 2, Los Angeles County 1, San Diego 4.

Smallpox.

82 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 35, Los Angeles County 20, Long Beach 8, Pomona 7, Orange County 2, Glendale 1, Santa Monica 1, Riverside 3, Kern County 4, Burbank 1.

Typhoid Fever.

25 cases of typhoid have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 7, San Leandro 1, Burbank 1, San Francisco 3, San Bernardino County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Pasadena 2, Plumas County 1, California 5.

Poliomyelitis.

9 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Monrovia 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 2, Long Beach 1, Orange County 2.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, Los Angeles 1.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

4 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis have been reported, as follows: Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1, Long Beach 1, Gilroy 1.

Epidemic Jaundice.

Anaheim reported one case of epidemic jaundice.

*From reports received on November 26th and 27th for week ending November 24th.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1923				1922			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 24 received by Nov. 27	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 25 received by Nov. 28
	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17		Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	
Anthrax	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	5	4	4	4	1	3	2	2
Chickenpox	60	91	193	113	67	76	144	76
Diphtheria	228	251	324	338	250	232	262	199
Dysentery (Bacillary)	6	0	5	0	3	2	0	1
Epidemic Encephalitis	2	3	4	2	1	0	0	1
Epidemic Jaundice	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea	133	128	83	150	229	92	90	67
Influenza	14	23	27	28	31	32	24	18
Leprosy	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Malaria	3	4	2	3	8	7	3	0
Measles	314	316	265	286	10	20	14	13
Mumps	31	14	22	27	21	20	19	20
Pneumonia	46	44	82	55	84	76	92	74
Poliomyelitis	9	8	11	9	2	0	0	0
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	158	179	195	223	164	191	187	145
Smallpox	74	88	93	82	11	13	9	17
Syphilis	122	174	111	89	211	85	95	90
Tuberculosis	141	229	134	175	146	104	136	140
Typhoid Fever	25	20	21	25	17	18	24	18
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	28	57	34	23	37	69	57	32
Totals	1399	1635	1612	1633	1293	1040	1158	916